

## REMARKS

Claims 25 and 26 were indicated as allowable. With this Amendment, claim 25 is placed in independent form and is thus allowable. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and is thus also allowable.

Independent claim 22 is amended herein to essentially incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 30. Claim 30 is cancelled. In particular, independent claim 22 is amended so as to further call for the material gap that exists between adjacent stator packets within a stator section to have a width dimension measured in a longitudinal direction that is less than the corresponding width of the material gap between adjacent stator packets of different stator sections. Claim 30 was rejected in the Office Action under §112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner stated that it is unclear as to exactly where the material gap is occurring between the packets, and that it is also unclear as to how the gap is being measured or compared with other sections.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to Figs. 3 and 6 of the present application, and the description set forth on pages 15 and 16 of the specification. As a first matter, it should be understood that several stator packets 5 form a single stator section 4. The length of a stator section 4 is equal to the length of a functional part 2. The functional part 2 includes a stator carrier 3 to which the stator packets are attached, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 6. The gap " $a_L$ " in Fig. 3 is the material gap width between stator packets within the single stator section 4. This material gap width  $a_L$  is measured in the longitudinal direction, as illustrated by the arrows in Fig. 3. Pages 15 and 16 explain that the corresponding material gap width between adjacent stator packets of different stator sections is greater than the gap width between stator packets within the same

stator section. In other words, the material gap width in the transition from one stator section to another stator section is greater than the material gap width between packets within the same stator section.

Respectfully, applicant submits that claim 22 as amended and explained herein overcomes the §112, second paragraph rejection of former claim 30.

Claim 31 is amended herein to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 31 is amended to reflect that the contour and counter-contour profiles of the front and back ends of adjacent stator packets within a stator section is different from the spatial configuration of the contour and counter-contour profiles of adjacent stator packets between different stator sections. Thus, as explained above with respect to amended claim 22, the distinction lies in the differences in the spatial configurations of the mating profiles between front and back ends of adjacent stators within a single stator section, as compared to the mating front and back ends of adjacent stator packets of different stator sections.

Respectfully, applicant submits that claim 31 as amended and presented herein overcomes the §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The §103 rejection based on Raschbichler '059 in view of Raschbichler '329 was not applied to either of claims 30 and 31. Applicant has carefully considered these references, and it does not appear that any reasonable modification or combination of the references would result in the configuration of claim 22 with the amendment presented herein. In particular, there is no teaching or description in Raschbichler '329 that would result in a different material gap width between the stator packets of Raschbichler '059 in different sections of the track.

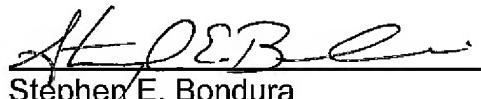
Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 as amended herein patentably distinguishes over the cited combination of references.

With the present Amendment, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information. Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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